

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation

Background



The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in recent history and is spreading rapidly. This is not only a global public health crisis, but also a humanitarian crisis that will impact the lives, health and livelihoods of people around the world. The first case of COVID-19 was reported from Wuhan, a capital of Hubei Province of China on 31 December 2019 but in Nepal it was reported on 23rd March 2020. On 11th of March 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) had declared COVID-19 as pandemic and the organization rated Nepal at high risk for COVID-19. The Government of Nepal imposed nationwide lockdown to minimize the potential risk of outbreak.

Table: Status of COVID-19 in Nepal up to 30th June

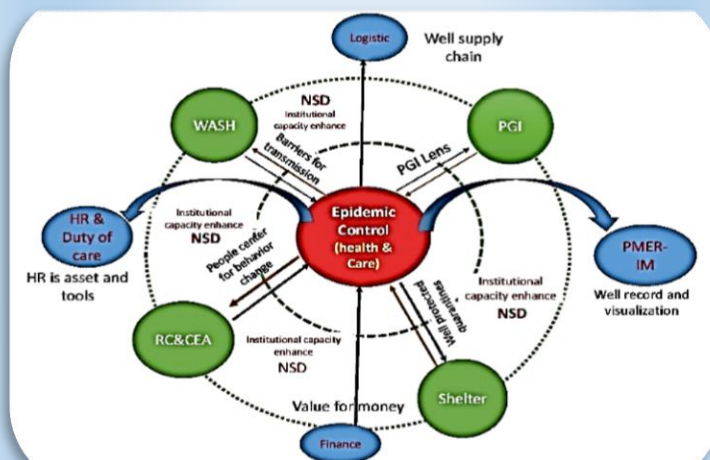
RDT Test:	300620
RT-PCR Test:	228341
People in quarantine	53070
Total positive case:	13564
Recovered:	3194
Deaths:	29
Confirmed cases in isolation	10341

[Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>]

NRCS response in COVID-19

As an auxiliary body to Government of Nepal (GoN), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been involved in preparedness and response activities against COVID-19 outbreak since early February 2020 in the following sectors:

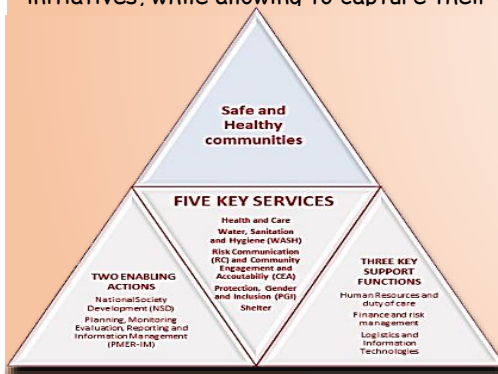
- Health and care
- Water sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH),
- Risk communication and community engagement and accountability (RC-CEA),
- Protection gender inclusion (PGI)
- Shelter



NRCS is working nationwide with communities, school, prison, municipals, government offices and other critical places such as quarantine sites, port of entry, isolation centres and holding area. NRCS is distributing WASH materials (such as hygiene kit, jug, bucket, soap, sanitizer, mask, gloves, brush, toothpaste, towel, tissue paper, nail cutter, sanitizer, chlorine tablet, squatting plates/portable toilets), disseminating risk communication messages through local radios, IEC and door to door campaign, supporting disinfectant kits (minimum PPE kits), drinking water, installation of hand washing stations in these places and transportation support at border entry point.

Institutional Response:

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has developed an approach paper for responding the pandemic. This approach paper describes the **high-level areas of intervention and key indicators** agreed upon among all Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners working in Nepal to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 in coming months. This includes the NRCS the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as Participating National Societies (PNSs) working in Nepal in support of NRCS under the legal status of the IFRC. Depending on the evolving situation (lockdown, virus progression, etc.) and the local contexts, not all will be possible, so that as a framework of interventions where Movement Partners have an added value. Following this framework, it will increase the coherence among various activities and initiatives, while allowing to capture their collective reach.



Among the five key service areas, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene promotion) is one of the crucial areas and there is global evidence that this sector will have a direct impact on our collective ability to prevent the spread of the disease.

This is also an area where NRCS has demonstrated strong expertise in past years and carried a long experience. As a result, NRCS has activated its WASH technical working group who are working not only in response phase but are also designing different training packages (such as One-day orientation, Disinfection, Do and Don't-Risk Communication, 3 days training package) that will help in responding the pandemic in community level.

Highlight Story

Water Distribution at Port of Entry



Distribution of drinking water to people returning to Nepal from India at Nepalgunj entry point.

People who had travelled to India to earn their livelihood are returning back to Nepal following the pandemic as India is also under lockdown situation and it is being difficult for the people to sustain in the situation.

Nepal has strict movement restriction due to which the returnees are walking back to Nepal through different borders. Quarantines have been set up in all the districts of Nepal and returnees are kept in quarantine. Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) are being carried out in quarantine centers. As the returnees are walking back to Nepal, NRCS with joint efforts of District Disaster Management Committee, UNICEF and other organization has started providing support to the people returning at different entry points of Nepal-India border. Returnees are being provided with bottled water and some ready to eat foods in different port of entry of the country. Banke, Kanchanpur and Rupendehi districts are distributing bottled water to the returnees.

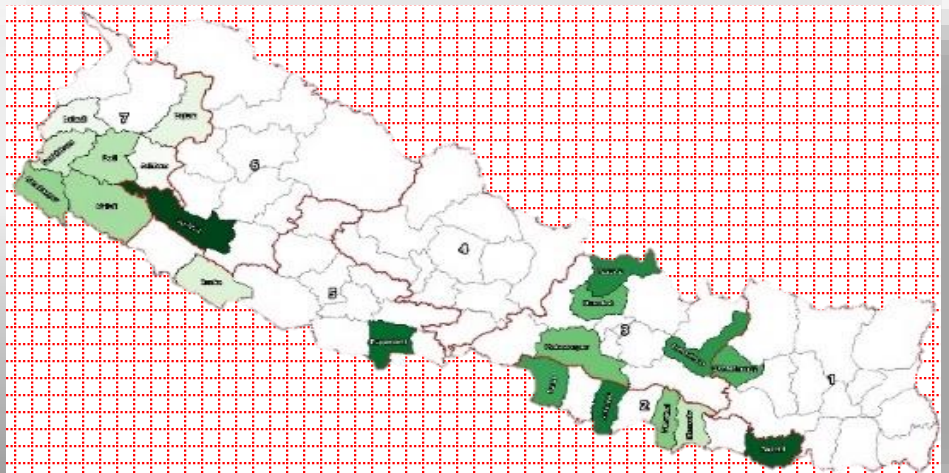
Additionally, Kanchanpur district chapter has also been providing basic medicines through health desk that has been set in Gaddachowki- western border of Kanchanpur district. Similarly, audible notice was done through megaphones regarding waste management at border checkpoints.

COVID-19 WASH intervention mapping

After the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 on December 2019 from Wuhan, China, Nepal Red Cross Society has started close consultation with IFRC, ICRC and participating national societies (PNSs) to take preventive measures from the beginning. However, rapid transmission of COVID-19 kept increasing.

Through various level of consultation with movement and non-movement partners, COVID-19 response program has been launched with support of American Red Cross and UNICEF. Five different projects (Paschim Disaster preparedness, PDPP, CCDRR, PREPARE) COVID-19 Response Project supported by American Red Cross and COVID-19 Response program supported by UNICEF has been initiated which is led by Disaster Management Department and Community Development Department in 120 wards of 46 Municipalities, 66 Rural Municipalities and two sub-metropolitan cities of 20 districts from different six provinces (1,2,3,5,6 & 7) which includes 49 quarantines and 11 port of entry.

All the local units of Red Cross throughout the nation have been responding to this pandemic and been working closely with the local government. Red Cross is actively supporting local government from data collection of people entering into the district to maintaining the quarantines/isolation centre with available WASH services.



🚫 Training Package (Disinfection)

Nepal is one of the hard-hit countries by corona virus (COVID-19). Complete lockdown modality endorsed by GoN during the initial phase of COVID-19 had somehow slowed the spread of the disease, however, only lockdown was not enough to block the spread chain completely. During these periods, WHO had released the process guidelines which can help to reduce the spread chain. Disinfection is that process, where high risk and frequently touch surfaces are made virus free. In combination with proper cleaning method, disinfection process is proved to be very effective in reducing the contamination and transfer of corona virus from one subject to another.

Disinfection must be done in places where confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients are kept. That can be from hospitals, holding areas, quarantine, public places, offices, homes and public vehicles including ambulances. Since, disinfection is based on use of chemical, it must be carried out by trained individual. Bleaching powder (Calcium hypochlorite) is one of the easily found, widely used, reliable and economic disinfectant in Nepal.

Meanwhile, NRCS being a pioneer in WASH interventions in Nepal is preparing one-day orientation package of "**Environment cleaning and disinfection process**" with target participants ranging from staffs, volunteers, cleaners and other individuals selected by local authority. NRCS targets to produce trained manpower with this one-day orientation package. This manpower will be capable to provide the service by disseminating the gained knowledge in the community. This package will be based on the guidelines endorsed by government of Nepal and WHO. This package focuses on practical session where participants will gain hands on knowledge of: safe handling, preparation, use, storage and safe disposal of the disinfectants used for the disinfection process. This package will be a milestone in NRCS WASH interventions as it will further value add the safer hygiene and sanitation approach in Nepal.

🚫 Our Partnership for COVID-19

- **RCRC Movement:** IFRC including Participating National Societies
- **UN agencies:** UNICEF
- **Government agencies** at federal, provincial and local levels

🚫 Upcoming events

- **5W orientation to districts**
(The invitation to district chapters has been sent through PMER-IM division)
 - ✓ 1st July: Province 2
 - ✓ 2nd July: Province 3
 - ✓ 5th July: Province 4 and 5
 - ✓ 6th July: Province 6 and 7

🚫 Contact Details:

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🚫 Coordination and Collaboration

- All Red Cross actions related to COVID-19 are in-line with GON MOHP, HEOC guideline and initiatives.
- NRCS province offices, district chapters and sub-chapters have remained in close contact with local authorities and supporting their plan for quarantine, isolation and holding site assessment, establishment and management.
- Participation in district disaster management committee meeting in all districts.
- Participation in WASH cluster meeting (national and provincial) and other meetings such as media interaction programme.

🚫 Celebrated Special Days

- ✓ 8 May, International Red Cross Red Crescent Day
- ✓ 28 May, International MHM Day
- ✓ June 5-11, National Sanitation Week

🚫 Useful links

- ✓ <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>
- ✓ www.nrscs.org
- ✓ <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc>
- ✓ <https://www.icrc.org/en>
- ✓ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- ✓ <https://www.unicef.org/nepal/>
- ✓ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- ✓ <http://watsanmissionassistant.org/>

NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (nCoV)

Preventive messages for general public

The common symptoms of nCoV



"Watch your health for 14 days after leaving the country where the novel corona virus is circulating. If you develop a fever, cough, or have difficulty in breathing, seek medical care in nearest health centers"

How to Protect yourself from Novel Corona Virus Infection?



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WASH

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATION

